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**State Representative Dan Huberty**  
House District 127

May 1, 2020

On Monday, Governor Greg Abbott outlined the state's plan for reopening the economy in the wake of COVID-19 response measures. In making the announcement, the Governor stated, "It's time to set a new course... that responsibly opens up business in Texas." Governor Abbott outlined steps to begin a three-phase reopening of the state's economy.

1. **Phase I** begins today, Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> and will allow a wide range of businesses to open at reduced (25 percent) capacity.
2. After two weeks of evaluating data, **Phase II** may begin as early as May 18<sup>th</sup>, which will increase allowable capacity to 50 percent.

Businesses and activities to resume as of Friday:

- Businesses that can open under the new Executive Order include: All retail stores, restaurants, malls, movie theaters, museums and libraries;
- Sole proprietor businesses can reopen;
- All licensed healthcare professionals can return to work with few restrictions;
- Churches and places of worship can expand their current allowable capacity, with continued distancing measures advised; and
- Outdoor sports of no more than four participants. In proximate interaction will be allowed.

Though the Governor's order allows a return to business, it **does not require** businesses or business owners to do so. Enforcement measures will primarily be done at the local or regulatory level. If a business is found to violate capacity restrictions, it will be subject to lose its license to operate. Additional enforcement measures include penalties of up to \$1,000 and 180 days in jail. The Governor's order supersedes all local ordinances.

DSHS has recommended minimum standard health protocols for all individuals, all employers and employees, as well as industry-specific protocols for retailers, retail customers, restaurants, restaurant patrons, movie theaters, movie theater customers, museums and libraries, museum and library visitors, outdoor sports participants, single-person offices, and low COVID-19 counties. These protocols are outlined in the Open Texas Checklists within the Governor's report beginning on page 20.

Essential services such as farmers and ranchers, grocery and drug stores, banks, and gas stations will continue to operate. Public swimming pools, bars, gyms, cosmetology salons, massage establishments, interactive amusement venues, such as bowling alleys and video arcades, and tattoo and piercing studios will remain closed through Phase I. Nursing homes, state supported living centers, assisted living facilities, and long-term care facilities must remain closed to visitors unless to provide critical assistance.

In two other executive orders, Governor Abbott relaxed certain restrictions related to health care


professionals and issued amended requirements related to hospital capacity; and eliminated the mandatory 14-day quarantine period for individuals traveling from Louisiana. You can view all three executive orders from this week online at: <https://gov.texas.gov/news>

Lastly, the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) issued new guidance to unemployment claimants concerning their eligibility for unemployment benefits should they choose not to return to work at this time due to COVID-19. Under this guidance, Texans can continue to receive unemployment benefits throughout the COVID-19 response if they choose not to return to work for certain reasons as specified by TWC.

Reason for refusal:

- At High Risk: People 65 years or older are at a higher risk of getting very sick from COVID-19.
- Household member at high risk: People 65 years or older are at a higher risk of getting very sick from COVID-19.
- Diagnosed with COVID: The individual has tested positive for COVID-19 by a source authorized by the State of Texas and is not recovered.
- Family member with COVID: Anybody in the household has tested positive for COVID-19 by a source authorized by the State of Texas and is not recovered and 14 days have not yet passed.
- Quarantined: Individual is currently in 14-day quarantine due to close contact exposure to COVID-19.
- Child care: Child's school or daycare closed and no alternatives are available.

Sincerely,



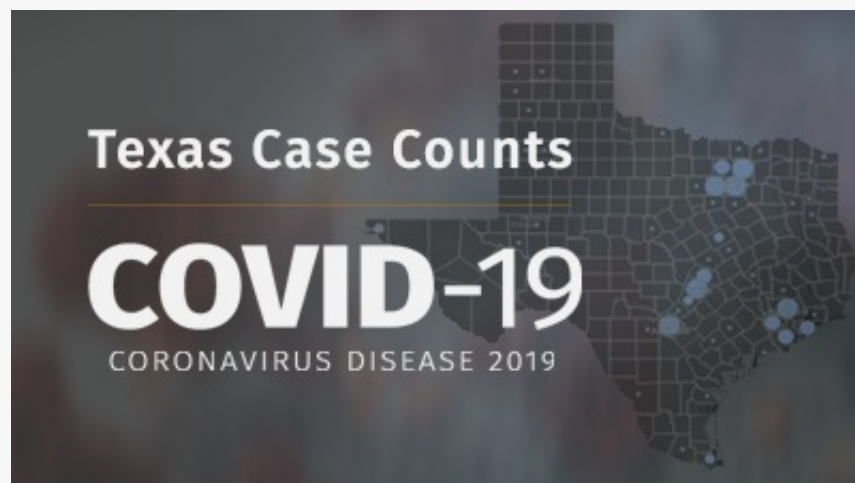
## Capitol & District Office Closure Notice

Both the Capitol office and District office will remain closed in line with Governor Abbot's executive orders. Our offices will remain functioning, with staff working remotely. Please utilize email communication with our office during this time, via the email contact information at the bottom of this newsletter.

Additionally we have set up an additional phone line that our staff will be able to monitor remotely. Our new phone number for the duration of the COVID-19 situation will be (281) 858-3354.

## Health Resources

### DSHS: COVID-19 Case Dashboard



Click the image above to be directed to the DSHS COVID-19 Dashboard

# Harris County Public Health Dashboard



Harris County  
**Public Health**  
Building a Healthy Community

Click the image above to be directed to the Harris County Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard

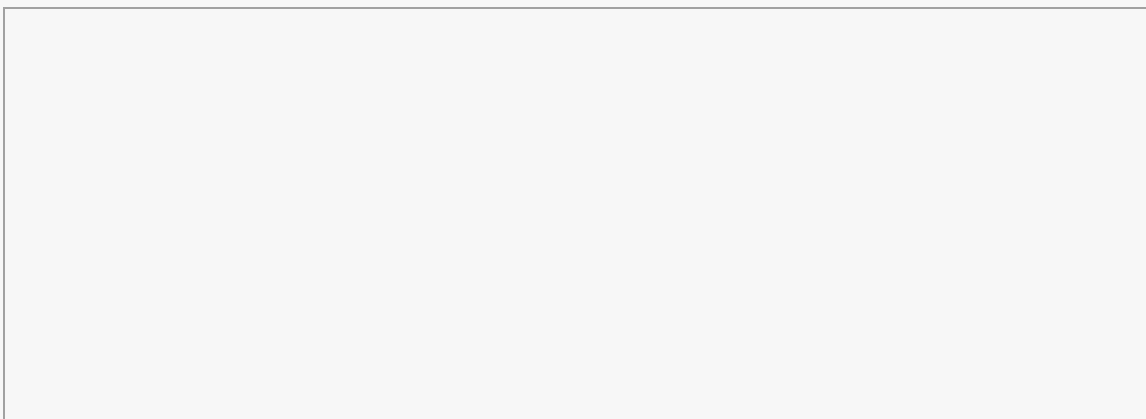
## ICYMI

### COVID-19 and Its Impact on Student Mental Health: An Online Conversation



## Updates from Austin

### Gov. Abbott Announces Phase One To Open Texas





Office of the Texas Governor | Greg Abbott

### **Governor Abbott Announces Phase One To Open Texas,...**

C reates Statewide Contact Tracing Program Issues Special Guidance For Texans Over 65, Nursing Homes Governor Greg Abbott today announced the first phase of the State of Texas' ongoing plan to safely and strategically open Texas while minimizing...

[Read more](#)  
[gov.texas.gov](http://gov.texas.gov)

## **Gov. Abbott Announces New TWC Guidance For Unemployment Claimants**



Office of the Texas Governor | Greg Abbott

### **Governor Abbott Announces New TWC Guidance For...**

Governor Greg Abbott today announced that the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has issued new guidance to unemployment claimants concerning their eligibility for unemployment benefits should they choose not to return to work at this time due to...

[Read more](#)  
[gov.texas.gov](http://gov.texas.gov)

**DSHS Guidance for Retail-To-Go Business**

# Re-Opened Retail Safety Guidelines:

## *Safety Steps for Completing Purchases:*

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### **Customers:**

- Cannot enter the business premises.
- May purchase items from a retail location for pickup, delivery by mail, or delivery to their doorstep.
- Should wash or sanitize their hands after the transaction.

### **Completing purchases:**

- All payments should be done over the phone or internet if possible, and contact should be minimized if remote payment is not available.

### ***Retail to go:***

- Employees should deliver purchased items to the backseat or trunk of the customer's vehicle when possible to minimize physical contact with the customer.
- Employees must wash or sanitize their hands after each interaction with a customer, and whenever possible, must disinfect any item the customer came into contact with.

### ***Retail delivery to customer's doorstep***

- Employees or a third party carrier should deliver purchased items to the customer's doorstep. The employee or third-party carrier may not enter the customer's house or business.

### ***Retail delivery by mail***

- Purchased items should be delivered by mail without customer contact.

**COVID-19**  
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services | Texas Department of State  
Health Services

**For updates and more information, visit [dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus](https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus)**

# Re-Opened Retail Safety Guidelines

## *Safety Steps and Training for Employees*

### All Employees Must:

- Be trained on properly washing hands, respiratory etiquette (i.e. covering sneezes), environmental cleaning and disinfection.
- Be screened before entering business for:
  - New or worsening cough
  - Shortness of breath
  - Sore throat
  - Loss of taste or smell
  - Feeling feverish, or having a temperature greater than or equal to 100.0°F
  - Known close contact with a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19

Any employee who meets any of these criteria should be sent home

- Wash or sanitize hands before entering business
- Wear face coverings
- Stay 6 feet away from others

**COVID-19**  
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services | Texas Department of State  
Health Services

For updates and more information, visit [dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus](https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus)

## Online Training For Child Care Providers During COVID-19 Response

Governor Greg Abbott and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service announced a series of free online trainings for child care providers and parents who are either in need of, or who will be providing care for, children of essential employees throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

The first three trainings are available on Texas A&M AgriLife's [online learning platform](#). Additional free training sessions will be rolled out incrementally and will address health and safety guidelines, practices for staffing, essential materials for child care operations, developmentally appropriate activities, adult-child interactions and more. Trainings will also address topics such as emergency management planning, stress management and self-care for caregivers, planning at-home activities for children, parent-child communication, and supporting children's emotional needs. Additionally, Texas First Lady Cecilia Abbott provided an introductory video for the child care training sessions.



## More Resources for At-Home Schooling

### Resources for Texas Parents

*take a virtual field trip*

Visit the Smithsonian, explore NASA's research center, take a walk on Mars, or tour the Great Wall -- all in the comfort of your own home! Virtual field trip opportunities will keep things exciting and entertaining for your student. Need ideas? Visit [bit.ly/2XkayPQ](https://bit.ly/2XkayPQ)

## Updates From the District

### Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program

The Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program (TASSP) offers a conditional scholarship to a deserving student dedicated to education and military service. Created in 2009 by the 81st Legislature, the TASSP was designed to financially assist post-secondary students by encouraging them to become members of the Texas Army National Guard, the Texas Air National Guard, the United States Coast Guard, the United States Merchant Marine, or to become commissioned officers in any branch of the armed services of the United States. Each year the Texas Governor and Lieutenant Governor appoint up to two students, and each Texas State Senator and State Representative may appoint one student.



State Representative Dan Huberty  
House District 127

#### The Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program Guidelines

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To be eligible, the student must fulfill two of the following four requirements:

1. On track to graduate or has graduated high school with the Distinguished Level of Achievement Plan or the International Baccalaureate Program (IB);
2. Has a current high school GPA of 3.0 or higher or graduated with a GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale;
3. Is currently ranked in the top third of their prospective high school graduating class or graduated in the top third of their graduating class;
4. Has achieved a college readiness score on the SAT (1070) or ACT (23).

To receive the scholarship, a student must:

1. Be enrolled in a Texas public or private accredited institution of higher education;
2. Enroll in and be a member of good standing of a Reserves Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) program while enrolled in the institution, as certified by the institution.
3. Enter into a written agreement with the Coordinating Board agreeing to:
  - a. Complete four years of ROTC training
  - b. Graduate no later than six years after the date the student first enrolls at an institution of higher education;
  - c. No later than six months after graduation, provide the Coordinating Board with the verification of:
    - i. A four-year commitment to be a member of the Texas Army National Guard, Texas Air National Guard, Texas State Guard, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Merchant Marine; or

Visit the [Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board](#) website for more information.

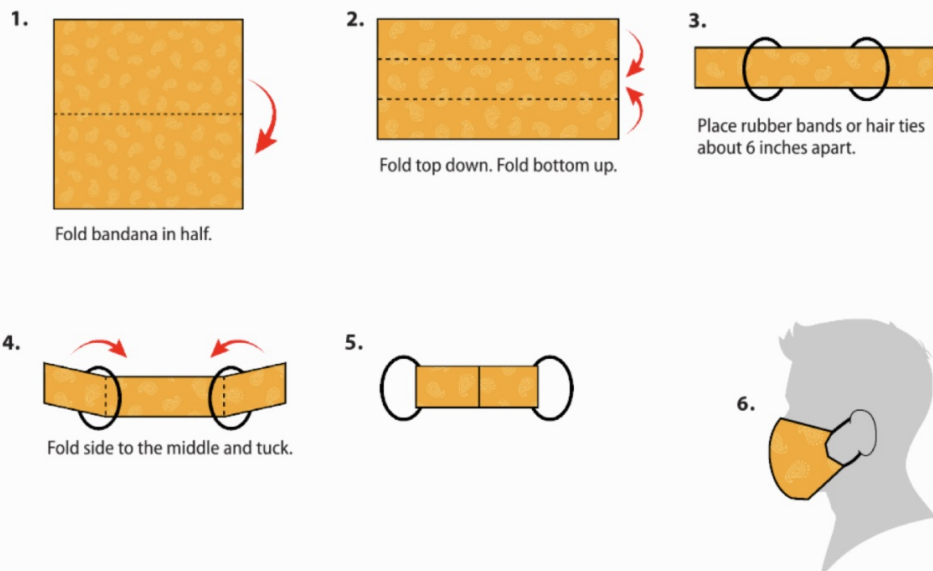
## How to Make Face Coverings at Home

### Bandana Face Covering (no sew method)

#### Materials

- Bandana (or square cotton cloth approximately 20"x20")
- Rubber bands (or hair ties)
- Scissors (if you are cutting your own cloth)

#### Tutorial

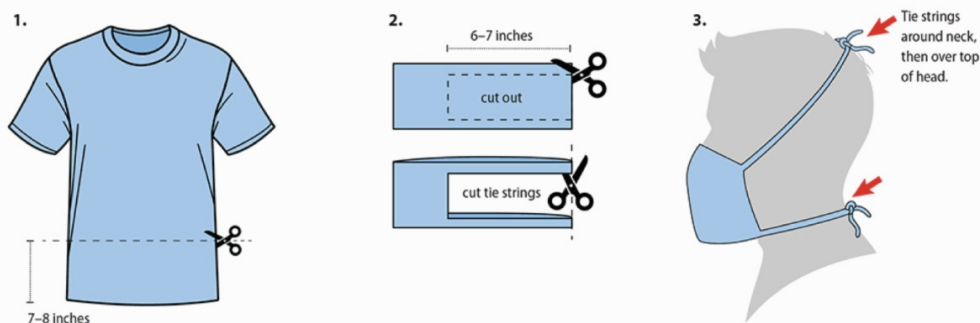


## Quick Cut T-shirt Face Covering (no sew method)

### Materials

- T-shirt
- Scissors

### Tutorial



## Contact Information

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[Email Dan](#)

### Casey Christman

**Chief of Staff**

[Email Casey](#)

### Jack Reed

**Legislative Director**

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